



PROFESSIONAL BAKING -MINUTES
Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, at 2:30 PM.
Zoom

Members Present: Joshua Svenhard, Bonnie Brasure

Members Absent: Jesse Dodson, Gabe Alvarez

Clark College: Theo Koupelis, Alison Dolder, Niira Krupnick, Melanie Hendry, Elizabeth Flores

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet on February 6th, 2024, at 2:30 PM via Zoom.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting could not be approved because the committee did not meet a quorum.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Theo has shared that enrollment has gone up by 10%.

Theo has noted the importance of the advisory committees and the support it provides the college.

Theo has shared that outreach in high school will be very important for recruitment and incorporate mentorship.

Theo has shared resources for bus transportation that he will share with Alison.

Action Item: Alison Dolder plans to contact Vikei Hrdina, the Executive Director at Career Connect SW, for bus transportation to accomplish high school outreach for the professional baking program.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Alison shared that the program is trying to fill the position for the retail space for the café. The program relies on the operation hours of the cafe so students can get more experience making products.

Alison mentioned that they are hiring additional hourly staff and are interviewing candidates for the food service supervisor position to manage the retail space.

Alison shared that the program is hiring an instructional tech 2, which would provide additional support for faculty since all the faculty teach two different classes simultaneously.

Alison shared that the Penguin Pantry created 450 individually wrapped Thanksgiving meals. The pantry also donates food boxes to students once a month.

Alison announced that the program received a generous donation of \$2,000 from the Cowlitz Tribe to buy gift cards for food-insecure students.

Alison mentioned that the program will help with the holiday market, where students can buy gently used gift items. Admission is free for students and includes cookies, cider, and cocoa.

Melanie reported losing one student at the beginning of the term but stated that the rest of the cohort has been excellent this year.

Melanie shared the organization Too Good To Go, which prevents food waste. It can save small businesses a third of their retail cost and allows businesses to sell unsold products at the end of the day. The organization has been able to save billions of dollars of food waste and provide inexpensive food to people interested in purchasing it.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Joshua recommended that culinary students should learn about the business aspects and knowledge of corporate roles.

Bonnie mentioned that former students at Clark College are thriving in the field. She shared that one of her employees, a former Clark student, has been working at Bleu Door for eleven years.

Joshua mentioned that COVID and post-COVID growth has been stagnant - this change has positives and negatives. One positive aspect is that it provides opportunities for marketing packages and samples.

Joshua mentioned that grab & go businesses have returned and packaged items.

Joshua stated that items made with a starter, such as sourdough, are currently receiving significant attention. Recipes incorporating 2-4% more sour notes have become increasingly popular. Items like Danish pastries, bread, or cookies benefit from the fermentation process.

Joshua shared that pre-pandemic, about 19% of foods were purchased online, and this year, the data suggested that up to 57% of foods are purchased online. This can look like pick-up, amazon fresh or subscription food. Joshua recommended this would be a good way for the students to understand business in the online food world.

Melanie has stated the program is moving towards fermentation education and incorporating starters.

Joshua has mentioned that the rising cost of prices has made it challenging to manage overhead expenses.

ACTION ITEMS

The committee must elect a chair and vice chair during the winter meeting.

Alison will recruit more advisory committee members by the winter meeting.

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores